



8th INEPS YOUTH CONGRESS

Athens – Patras – Olympia 23-30/4/2004

With the support of EU and the Hellenic Youth Agency Program YOUTH

<Five rings The Olympic spirit as a connecting ring for the coexistence of cultures - an answer to xenophobia and racism>

The CCO (Centre of Creative Occupation) – Movement "PROTASI" and the young volunteers group of Movement "PROTASI" with the name SEVACH organize between 23 and 30 April 2004 a multicultural, transnational meeting in the frame of the 8th INEPS Youth Congress with the topic: *"Five rings – The Olympic spirit as a connecting ring for the coexistence of cultures – an answer to xenophobia and racism"*.

80 young people and their educators from 8 countries (Greece, Germany, Sweden, Finland, Spain, Hungary, Cyprus, Russia) will participate to this meeting.

These young people are students in productive learning schools or participate in productive learning projects which belong to the Network of Productive Learning Schools (INEPS). More information at www.vilafrancavirtual.org/ineps

Apart from the annual meetings of the educators and leaders in PL at INEPS Congresses, there are also annual INEPS Youth Congresses where the students and young people (like the SEVACH group) have a chance to meet each other, exchange experiences and create new bounds among them on the aims, principles and ideals of PL.

This meeting is financially supported partly from the NATIONAL YOUTH AGENCY in the frame of the European project "YOUTH" – Action 1 and will take place in Athens, Patras and Olympia.

The aims: * Acquaintance and communication with the young people from Europe. Young people will come to Greece and learn about the Greek cultural inheritance, the history, philosophy and background of the Olympic Games.

* Bounds among the young people, based on the Olympic Ideals, will be created and maintained and this can be an answer to xenophobia and racism.

Within the symbolism of 5 rings that form the motto of Olympic Games we aim to connect the principles and the values of the Olympic spirit with the contemporary pursuits of the young people at the workshops that will take place during the meeting.

BRIDGES PROJECT IS ESTABLISHED IN NEW YORK CITY

The International Bridges Project has finally become a reality within the framework of The City Hall Academy, located at the Department of Education Headquarters. The Academy was established to serve as an professional development educational laboratory developing programs to be replicated throughout the city. The Executive Director of the Academy is Steven Strull who has had extensive experience developing small schools around the country. Alan Schulman will serve as the Project's Director (his new E Mail address is aschulm@nycboe.net). The Project will reach out to create partners and collaborators throughout the city including, government, universities, public and private enterprises. Using these models the Center will develop international connections throughout the world to create similar efforts globally. They are hoping that INEPS will become an active participant in this new venture.



The Mirror Mobility around Europe



Students and teachers of Gustave Eiffel School from Berlin have visited IDAP in Vilafranca del Penedès, and Fogelströmska Gymnasiet in Stockholm.

Last February a group of six students and one teacher from Gustave Eiffel School, Lutz Hersch, arrived at Vilafranca del Penedès to study and analyse the structure and pedagogical methods of the Institute of Productive Learning –IDAP besides seeing a new European culture. For 4 days the students of both centres did several activities and tasks together focusing on documenting and producing materials for a common product, our Mirror web site. They were taking photos of the centre and doing reports, articles and interviews between them, speaking and writing in a common foreign language, English. Also they got to know a bit more about the wine and sun culture by visiting a cava factory and the Mediterranean Sea.

A jump to the North following the Mirror aims, another group of five students of this same school, accompanied on this occasion by their teacher Dietmar Döniges, visited in March Fogelströmska Gymnasiet from Stockholm. The Swedish students prepared a guided tour of the city in English for them giving to the visitors a chance to see very interesting old sites belonging to the medieval epoch and learn about their history. This information was useful for reflection and production of material for the Mirror Web Site product. The German students studied the training system and building of Fogelströmska Gymnasiet where they were impressed of many things.

We are happy with our project because it allows us to connect and learn together in a virtual way, using TIC like one of our best educational tools, but also by means of real contact and personal communication, which is the most important thing in the end.

M. Masó *Coordinator MMS Project*